



The Judicial Branch News

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October 2008

Court and the Community Working Together

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The *Judicial Branch News* is an online newsletter published by the Media Relations and Community Outreach Department. The newsletter is also available on the Court's Intranet site at:
<http://courts.maricopa.gov/publicInfo/newsLetter/index.asp>

If you wish to contribute to this newsletter, please send articles, news items, photos or other correspondence to:
karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov.

"Committed to the Timely, Fair and Impartial Administration of Justice."



One-by-one, Superior Court judges walked to the podium and shared their anecdotes and career experiences with students and the public at the first two community forums held at Phoenix and Scottsdale Community Colleges.

Their stories were humorous, informative and, above all, inspiring.

During the forums, students and members of the community listened carefully while judicial officers shared interesting factoids about their departments and later engaged them in thought-provoking question-and-answer sessions on the budget, managing caseloads, family court and mediation.

The students and community members who attended the first two forums came prepared. The diverse interests, perspectives and questions presented during these events showed that the community cares about its courts and judges.



Barbara Rodriguez Mundell
Presiding Judge



Photo by Phil Munroe, Phoenix College

Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell speaks to a packed house at Phoenix College.

Listening to this discussion, I was extremely impressed with our invited guests and judicial officers. Events like this showcase the talents, abilities and backgrounds of the men and women who serve on our Bench.

The forums are an opportunity for judges and commissioners to meet the people they serve on a personal level and listen to their issues and concerns. It is also a chance for the public to tell us about what we do well; what needs improvement and how they recommend the improvements can be made.

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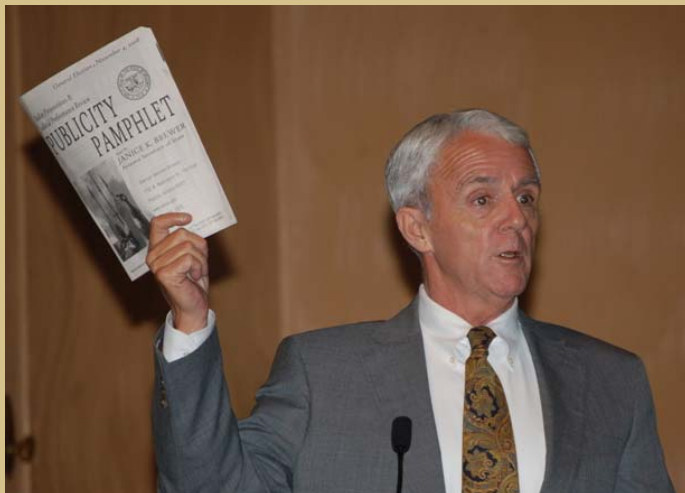
This is the third year that the Superior Court has partnered with local community colleges and the fourth year hosting the award-winning series "The Court and the Community Working Together." The forums are a grassroots approach to educating court customers and potential jurors about the judicial branch. They are a great venue for the court to talk about the importance of merit selection and judicial accountability.

I want to thank all of the judicial officers and court staff who took time to attend the forums.

The third and, final, Community Forum of the season is scheduled for Wednesday, October 29th at 6 p.m. at the Southminster Presbyterian Church, 1923 E. Broadway Road in Phoenix.

We hope to see you there.

Community Forum Photo Highlights



Photos by Vincent Funari and Phil Munroe of Phoenix College

Newsmakers

Two Superior Court Judges Named to the Court of Appeals



Margaret H. Downie



Peter B. Swann

Governor Janet Napolitano appointed Superior Court Judges Margaret H. Downie and Peter B. Swann to fill vacancies in Division I of the Arizona Court of Appeals.

Judge Downie, an 11-year veteran on the Superior Court bench, is currently serving as a Lower Courts of Appeals Judge. She also served as Civil Presiding Judge and as a Superior Court commissioner.

Judge Downie's legal career includes a nine-year assignment with the State Bar of Arizona where she worked as Chief Bar and Disciplinary Counsel. She began her legal career as a civil litigator for Jennings, Strouss & Salmon. Judge Downie holds a Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center and a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Judge Swann, a member of the Superior Court bench for the last five years, is serving as the Associate Civil Presiding Judge. He also served in the civil and family court departments.

Before his judicial appointment, he was an attorney for Steptoe & Johnson for 11 years. His legal career includes work as a Judge Pro Tempore in Gilbert Municipal Court; Disciplinary Hearing Officer with the Arizona Supreme Court and Law Clerk for the Hon. Norman P. Ramsey of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. Judge Swann earned a Juris Doctorate from the University Of Maryland School of Law and a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Judges Downie and Swann are filling vacancies on the Arizona Court of Appeals created by the recent retirement of Judge Susan Ehrlich and Judge G. Murray Snow's appointment to the United States District Court.

Spanish-speaking DUI Court Recognized for "Best Practices"

The Sentencing Project, a national non-profit organization has included Spanish-speaking DUI Court in its "Best Practices" section of its 2008 manual on Racial Disparity in the Criminal Justice System.

The Sentencing Project is a non-profit organization which promotes sentencing reform and the use of alternatives to incarceration through program development and research on criminal justice issues.

Spanish-speaking DUI court was chosen for the program's effectiveness and its impact on the community.

For more information on the project go to: http://www.sentencingproject.org/Admin/Documents/publications/rd_reducingracialdisparity.pdf

Q and A: Judge Sam Myers

Judges who have joined the bench over the past several months are being featured in a question-and-answer feature that runs regularly in the Judicial Branch News.

Q. What has surprised you the most about your transition from prosecutor to judge?

As someone who only practiced criminal law, I knew very little about what happens in the civil division of the Superior Court. I am constantly surprised about the amount and variety of matters that come before the civil bench.

Q. Before joining Superior Court, you worked as an attorney for a financial company in Phoenix, Pima County Attorney's Office, Tucson City Attorney's Office and Maricopa County's Attorney's Office. How did those assignments prepare you for your career as a judge?

My work as a prosecutor most prepared me for the bench because it put me into the courtroom on a regular basis. My familiarity with courtroom practices and procedures has been invaluable.



Sam Myers

Q. You served as a bailiff and law clerk for now-deceased Superior Court Judge I. Sylvan Brown. How did that experience influence your career path?

Judge Brown was a tremendous influence on me – he believed in hard work, integrity, and he did not suffer fools gladly. He strongly influenced the standards I set for myself as a lawyer. To the extent that he influenced my career path, he loved being a judge and showed me what a wonderful experience it could be.

Q. What's your favorite quote?

"They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself." – Andy Warhol

Q. Do you have a favorite movie or television show in the court or legal genre?

The Andy Griffith Show. I realize it is not an obvious choice, but Andy was not only the Sheriff of Mayberry, he was also the Justice of the Peace.

Q. Do you own a IPOD and what kind of music is on your playlists?

I have about 7000 songs on my iPod from all genres, mostly pop/rock and roll from the 60s, 70s, and 80s. No Lawrence Welk and no Motorhead, but just about everything in between.

Q. When you retire from the bench, how would you like to be remembered?

As someone who treated people well.

Court News and Notes

Court Buyers Receive Certification

Shirley Cabral, Procurement Supervisor, for Maricopa County Superior Court, **Karen Rushing, Procurement Specialist**, for Maricopa County Superior Court and **Janie Terry, Contract Specialist**, for Maricopa County Superior Court, are the latest recipients of the Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB) certification conferred by the Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council (UPPCC). This prestigious designation is an outstanding honor for individuals in the public profession and an asset to their specific division of governmental administration.

CPPB candidates are required to meet specific rigorous criteria established by the Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council (UPPCC). The criterion includes training in purchasing related subjects and public purchasing experience.

*Submitted by Shirley Cabral
Procurement*

Save the Date: National Adoption Day

November 15
9 am to 2 pm
Durango Juvenile Court
Complex
3131 W. Durango

“Know It, Share It, Serve...ensuring access to fairness and justice”



Participants of the inaugural class of the Know It, Share It, Serve class.

On September 23rd and 24th, 2008, five judges and 15 staff members from various areas of the court family gathered for a unique training opportunity. Through two grueling days of critical thinking, fun, exchange of knowledge and experience, these twenty courageous people graduated from a legal advice versus legal information faculty skills program. Not only was the task of approaching legal advice versus legal information from a critical thinking, customer service perspective very daunting, the participants were also learning many teaching methods.

This unique Maricopa County Training and Education Department program was called, “Know It, Share It, Serve...ensuring access to fairness and justice” (KISIS). The foundation of the program was based on materials from the 2006 Supreme Court’s task force on legal advice versus legal information. The participants of the inaugural class have agreed to teach two classes each within the next six months, ensuring court customers in Superior Court receive a more consistent message as they interact with court staff and judicial officers.

A committee was established approximately one year ago to create and develop this program. The committee members served as faculty, comprised of six court personnel: Commissioner Rick Nothwehr, Jennifer Murray (Law Library), Robert Hahn (CASA Director), Aaron Nash (Clerk of Court), Elizabeth Evans and Cindy Reid (Training and Education Dept). Future sessions are being planned.

*Submitted by Cindy Reid
Training*

Law Library

Library and Self-Service Center Tip: Research Guides and Bibliographies

If you or a litigant have questions about Arizona law and don't know where to start, consider the Law Library's Research Guide or Bibliography series.

The Law Library Research Guide series are available in print at the Library or from any Internet-accessible computer. The Research Guide series provides a focused overview of the most helpful legal resources on a specific topic. The series includes the following titles: Arizona Legal Resources on the Internet, Bankruptcy, Domestic Violence, Elder Law, Emancipation, Homeowners' Association, Juvenile Law, Landlord and Tenant, Probate and Wills, Representing Yourself in Court and Tax Lien Sales

For a full listing of titles, see: <http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/LawLibrary/SelfHelpResources/guides.asp>
In contrast to the Research Guide series, the Law Library Bibliography series provides a comprehensive listing of library resources on a specific legal topic. The Bibliography series is available from any Internet-accessible computer and includes the following titles: Child Visitation Issues, Criminal Law Treatises, Expert Witnesses, Employment Law, Family Law Treatises, Jury Instructions, Jury Verdicts, Legal Forms, Legal Writing, Probate Law Treatises

For a full list of titles, see: <http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/LawLibrary/LibraryInformation/Publications/bibliographies.asp>

If you or a customer have questions about these or any other Law Library publications, contact the library on the second floor of the East Court Building, by telephone at 602-506-3461 or by email at services@sccl.maricopa.gov for more information.

Submitted by Jennifer Murray
Law Library

Remodeling Projects at Superior Court

Central Court Building

The Central Court Building lobby is being expanded to include additional storefront entrances and to relieve the long wait of visitors entering the court complex throughout the week. Once completed, the lobby will include three x-ray machines and four magnetron walk-throughs for the public entrance and one by-pass station for court staff entrance. These changes are projected to be completed on November 10th.

West Court Building

The West Court Building lobby is expected to begin refurbishment in mid-November, which will result in a smaller security checkpoint and an expanded Jury Assembly area. Completion of the West Court Building is expected before the end of the year.

Central Court Basement

The Central Court Building basement remodel is expected to be completed in April of 2009 and includes the following:

- Four courtrooms comprised of two RCC courtrooms, one ECB 813 (Not Guilty Arraignment Calendars, Initial Appearance by Summons calendars, and Bond Forfeiture Hearings) courtroom and one visiting judge courtroom
- Adult Probation, Public Defender, Court Interpreter, Clerk of the Court, County Attorney, Sheriff's Office, judicial officers and Court Administration will have space in the basement. The area will include holding cells for approximately 100 defendants and non-contact visitation rooms.

Submitted by Karin Philips

Judicial Rotations

Due to the appointments of Judges Peter Swann and Margaret Downie to the Court of Appeals, a few rotations have taken place. In addition, there will be some rotations that will take place in December. The departmental presiding judges shall make arrangements to provide training to the judicial officers rotating into their departments

October Rotations

Commissioner Susan Brnovich is at Southeast Juvenile hearing Judge Robert Houser's calendar until a new judge is appointed. She assumed full duties on that calendar on Oct. 13, and Judge Houser came downtown to assume Judge Downie's lower court appeals calendar.

Commissioner Colleen L. French backfilled Judge Joseph Welty's family court calendar. Judge Welty assumes Judge L. Grant's criminal calendar. Judge L. Grant takes over Judge Swann's regular civil calendar; Judge Edward Burke will assume Judge Swann's complex civil cases.

December Rotations

Commissioner Patricia Arnold will take the mental health calendar at Desert Vista, Commissioner Benjamin Vatz will take over Commissioner Arnold's Initial Appearance calendar downtown.

Judge Emmet Ronan will take Judge David Udall's criminal calendar; Judge Udall will assume Judge David Talamante's juvenile calendar; Judge Talamante will take over Judge Ronan's family court calendar and become the new Southeast Presiding Judge effective Jan. 1, 2009.

More Rotations

When Judge Anna Baca retires at the end of January, 2009, Judge Gary Donahoe will take over her calendar as Criminal Presiding Judge. Judge Rosa Mroz will assume Judge Donahoe's special assignment and Judge Glenn Davis will take over Judge Mroz's criminal calendar. The newly appointed judge will go to the civil department and take Judge Davis' calendar.

In Memory Judge Norman D. Hall



Norman D. Hall

Judge Norman D. Hall, who passed away on October 16, was appointed to the Maricopa County Superior Court bench in 1987 and retired in 1998. Before becoming a judge, he practiced law for 30 years, beginning as a deputy county attorney with Maricopa County Attorney's Office. He was a partner at various law firms, practicing mostly civil law.

Veterans Day Parade Volunteers

Judge Carey Hyatt, Commissioner Shellie Smith, Adult Probation Chief Barbara Broderick and Jim Frost of APD are doing their part to help this year's Veterans Day Parade. Judge Hyatt and Commissioner Smith have been encouraging probationers in Drug Court to volunteer to work the parade. APD has chipped in numerous ways, which includes helping Lex, a German Shepherd Iraqi War Veteran, travel to Phoenix to participate in the event.

The parade starts at 11:00 a.m. on November 11 at the Veterans Affairs Hospital at 7th Street and Indian School Road in Phoenix.

Courtside

Photo Highlights



Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Ruth V. McGregor (right) swears in Judge Benjamin Norris (left) during his investiture ceremony on October 10th in Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix.



A group of lawyers from the People's Republic of China stop by Judge Lisa Flores' courtroom. The group visited Superior Court as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program.



Left to right – Zach Dal Pra, APD, Mike Goss, APD, BOS Chairman Andy Kunasek, Mary Tripson, APD and APD Chief Barbara Broderick. Tripson was recognized by Maricopa County for 30 years of service.



The Valley Metro light rail passes the Old Courthouse during testing. The light rail is expected to open in December.